Rs. 9702.67 crores outlay has been provided for ONGC and OIL for the Plan period.

(c) Against an outlay of Rs. 180,000 crores for the entire Public Sector, the outlay for exploration and production in the VII Plan is Rs. 9702.67 crores.

(d) Oil exploration being probablistic in nature, it is not possible to state with a degree of certitude that self sufficiency would be achieved through a given outlay.

Diminishing capacity of Bombay High

729. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the capacity of Bombay High has been regularly diminishing since the last fire;

(b) if so, what is the present output per day of Bombay High;

(c) whether any additional steps have been taken to keep the original production; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The fire on Sagar Vikas took place in July 1982. During the last three years the production of crude oil from Bombay offshore has increased as follows:—

Year	Production (MT)	Average daily Production (000 Tonnes)
1982-83	12·88	35
1983-84	17·39	48
1984-85	20·14	55
1985-86 (anticipated)	20·61	56

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Problems in Drilling at Bodra

730. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission drilling at Bodra in 24 Parganas, with the help of the Russians, has developed some problems;

(b) if so, what are the details of the said problems; and

(c) what efforts have been made by Government to solve the problems and the results achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During drilling of Bodra well No. 2 beyond the depth of 3760 metres, simultaneous mud loss and high pressure were encountered. The problem was overcome by cement squeeze jobs and drilling was carried on to a depth of 4324 metres when the drill string got stuck and could not be released despite efforts. The hole was deviated from 3780 metres to 4170

metres; problems of high pressure and mud loss continued and drill string got stuck at 2862 metres. Liquidation of the fish is in progress.

(c) Services of Drilling Consultants from America have been taken and plan of future operations have been prepared by ONGC engineers in consultation with the American experts.

LPG connections

731. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG connections given to consumers during the calendar year 1985;

(b) the number of applicants for new L.P.G. connections on the waiting list in the country as on 31st December, 1985; and

(c) by when they are likely to get the new gas connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) During January—December, 1985, 16.13 lakhs LPG connections were released.

(b) As on 31-12-1985 approximately 37 lakh applications were pending for allotment of LPG connections.

(c) Connections to persons on the waiting list are being released in a phased manner under the annual customer enrolment programme of the oil companies which is presently around 16 lakhs per annum. Release of connections is determined by augmentation in LPG availability as well as of infrastructure like bottling plants, transportation facilities and distributorships net work.

Production of crude oil

732. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how much crude oil was produced by O.N.G.C. during the calendar year 1985;

(b) what is the likely production during the year 1986; and

(c) in view of rapidly growing demand of Petroleum and Petroleum products what steps Government propose to take to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) 27.23 million tonnes.

(b) During 1986-87 the target for crude oil production of ONGC is 27.37 million tonnes.

(c) Some of the steps proposed to increase the production are:—

1. Intensification of exploration which may eventually lead to enhanced production.

2. Intensification of work-over operations.

3. Use of enhanced oil recovery techniques.

4. Induction of advanced technology.

Malpractices by gas dealers in Bhiwani

733. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned *'Gas Upbhoktaon ki Pareshani'* which appeared in the *Nav Bharat Times* of 20th January, 1986;